

CIA Plays With Kids and Loses Its Marbles

By TED LEWIS

Washington, Feb. 20—In order to appreciate the mess that the Central Intelligence Agency has got itself into by shuffling funds into the National Student Association, it is necessary to go back to September, 1965.

In that month a document was leaked by Congressional sources which warned that the Soviet "department of disinformation" was using forged papers and phoned reports to "destroy the confidence of Congress and the American public in U.S. personnel and agencies engaged in anti-Communist and cold war activity." The inference was that any American public figure criticizing the CIA was playing the Communist game.

This is exactly the same line being peddled in Congress today by defenders of CIA operations. Typical was the blurt by Sen. John Stennis (D-Miss.) in the Senate that the present criticism over the CIA's undercover NSA operation showed "some groups are consciously trying to destroy the CIA."

Stennis knows well that the tragedy of the present disclosures of CIA infiltration into the youth movement is that the intelligence agency in this area, if not in others, committed one of the most horrendous blots ever made by the spy establishment.

Gave Them Biggest Advantage Since Cold War Began

By failing to have an ironclad protective "cover" on its surreptitious system of semi-control through financing the youth organization, it gave Moscow's "department of disinformation" the biggest advantage since the cold war began.

In the intelligence community a cover has to be a cover—has to be real, impenetrable and always safeguarded with periodic checks of those privileged to be privy to the secret operation.

What a mess the CIA made on that score in the youth area! It peddled on the money through "foundations," each of which had employees without CIA clearance who knew where the government cash was coming from. And to top off that error in judgment, key officials of the NSA itself—young, starry-eyed idealists mostly—were told about how CIA financing was keeping the organization solvent—for a price.

Now, in September, 1965, when the CIA report concerning the Soviet "department of disinformation" was leaked, the spy agency was also suffering from considerable Congressional heat. Not comparable to the present flames of criticism over taking advantage of dreamy-eyed college boys, but still very disturbing.

In Singapore, then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew had sounded off to the effect that he was offered a \$8 million bribe in early 1961 to hush up the arrest of a CIA agent.

Called It Plant By Reds to Destroy the CIA

At the time no one here took that too seriously, except the CIA, which went into great detail to show that such bribery charges were clearly a plant of the Soviet intelligence apparatus. The prime objective of that apparatus was "to achieve the destruction, breakup and neutralization of the CIA."

Besides trying not to "destroy the confidence" of the American

people and Congress in the CIA, the Moscow intelligence chiefs were also doing their damndest to discredit the Peace Corps, the USAID and "American political leaders generally."

"By striking at the CIA," the report continued, "the attack also centers on the intelligence community with particular thrust against the FBI and Mr. J. Edgar Hoover," but "the objective of the overall program is to achieve the destruction, breakup and neutralization of CIA."

Note that is the Moscow objective. The CIA has survived that Moscow-directed campaign. But the question now has arisen as to whether the CIA itself, by inept action of its own in the youth area, hasn't done a "neutralization" job on itself.

The hell of it is that within the CIA itself there are those officials who are acting happy over revelation of the way they infiltrated the NSA. These are the same individuals who pass the policy back to the National Security Council, which, under Truman, Kennedy and LBJ had to supply the go-ahead for the youth-control operation.

Strong Odor of National Security Scandal

But the youth-infiltration program was an entire CIA operation so far as the means for infiltrating were concerned. And it is in this area that the fault lies for the present stench which has the smell of a national security scandal, for it sets back by years this phase of international cold war activity.

What is perhaps worse is that the "cover" is likely to be blown off soon concerning other CIA secret financing arrangements. There was something fishy—even noticed by government intelligence operatives—in the denial by AFL-CIO President George Meany at Miami Beach today that the labor movement ever received any CIA funds.

Meany said he "knew nothing" about the reported CIA financial help to the American Newspaper Guild for international unionization programs. Somebody should have asked him whether the AFL-CIO's international trade union drive had CIA blessing in a financial way.

Case of Lovestone and Brown

Particularly whether the two key figures in this overseas effort—Jay Lovestone and Irving Brown—have a dual loyalty have close to top security clearance, even if not CIA agents exactly.

Lovestone, controversial and highly talented, broke with the Communists back in 1929. He is now international affairs director of the AFL-CIO. He is now international affairs director of the AFL-CIO and has in Brown, a most able and experienced lieutenant. Brown, as European representative of the AFL, helped organize anti-Communist labor unions in Germany and elsewhere beginning in 1945.

As far back as 1952 there were published charges that Lovestone and Brown, at that time, were working for both the garment workers union and the CIA in pushing the free trade union movement in Europe. Were they or were they not, then CIA Director Allen Dulles was asked. He refused to say yes or no.

Now it is obviously too bad that any CIA operative, either in the labor movement or the youth movement, should lose his "cover." But that is exactly what is in the works, and due almost entirely to the amateurish way the CIA has been trying to copy James Bond.

Pers. Meany, George

Chg. AFL-CIO

Chg. American Newspaper Guild

Pers. Lovestone, Jay